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THE PETITION AND DECLARATION OF Richard Langhorne

(A notorious Papiſt now in *Newgate* Condemned for Treaſon)

PRESENTED

To His MAJESTY in Council at *Hampton-Court*,

The 10th of this inſtant *July*, 1679.

In which

He avowedly owneth ſeveral Popiſh Principles and Tenets, relating to what he believeth, and thinketh himſelf bound to believe by his Popiſh Principles, in relation to the Duty which he (and it is believed that our Engliſh Papiſts hold the ſame) is bound to pay to his preſent Majeſty, a true Proteſtant Prince.

The PUBLISHER to the READER.

Courteous Reader,

IT is an Opinion ſo commonly received for true amongſt us here in *England*, That Papiſts have leave from their Prieſts to diſown at their death thoſe Principles by which they have ſteered the Actions of their Lives, that I thought it would not be ungrateful to the Publick, to ſet forth the avowed Tenents of this Popiſh Traytor, that he may not find a Caſe of Conſcience to diſown next Munday at the Gallows, that he ſo lately gave under his Hand to

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the King and Councel, without receiving the juſt infamy due to Perjury. For though the different impreſſions of the Speeches of the late Executed Jeſuits, and Remarks upon them, may occaſion ſeveral doubts and miſ-interpretations, yet I am ſure, this can hardly admit of either to an impartial Reader: For ſhould Mr. *Langhorne* have the confidence to deny, that any word in the following Petition or Declaration is not ſuch as he ſigned and ſent to His Majeſty in Councel, the very Clark of the Councel in waiting, (who I ſuppoſe may yet have the Petition by him) as well as the Party that delivered it, can teſtifie the contrary.

I love not to inſult over Condemned perſons, nor thoſe who are accuſed of the moſt deteſtable Crimes; and therefore hope it will not be thought to favour of Reflection, if I ſay, that I have reaſon to believe, That Mr. *Langhorn* hath bred up his Children in the Principles he owns in his Declaration, ſince one of them is now in *Newgate*, and accuſed for acting in that horrid Plot, for which the Father ſtands Condemned. And that you may not here be troubled with needleſs Arguments to ſhew how far contrary ſuch Tenets as he owneth are to thoſe of even all the Reformed Churches, from the firſt *Waldenſes* of *Lyons* and *Languedock*, to this very day, I refer you to the Reaſons and Citations of a late printed Paper, Entituled, *Pereat Papa*, where for a penny you may ſee how contrary the Principles and Tenets of this Popiſh Malefactor, in point of obedience to Princes, *&c.* are to what the aforeſaid Reformed Churches have taught from time to time.

11 *July*, 1679.

To

To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty.

The humble PETITION of *Richard Langhorne*,
A Priſoner Condemned in the Goal of *Newgate*,

Humbly ſheweth,

THat your Majeſties Petitioner, with all gratitude of heart and Soul imaginably, humbly thanks your Majeſty for your Mercie in giving him Life until *Munday* next.

That your Petitioner is wholly ignorant of the ſubſtance of that Letter mentioned in your Majeſties Order of Council, of the third inſtant, to have been written by the Earl of *Roſcomon*, as alſo of the grounds upon which it was written; and therefore hopes that your Majeſtie will not permit your Petitioners life to be taken away, before that be clearly underſtood.

That your Petitioner having, in obedience to your Majeſties particular Command, made a full, clear, and ſincere diſcoverie of all thoſe Eſtates which your Majeſtie commanded him to diſcover, humbly offers unto your Majeſties merciful conſideration, the Proteſtation and Declaration by your Petitioner hereunto annexed; by which he no way intends to reflect upon your Majeſties Juſtice, or the Juſtice of the Judges or Jurie by whom he was tried: and humbly begs, that the ſame may not be interpreted to intend any ſuch reflection. And that your Majeſtie will pleaſe to conſider, that it is not impoſſible for an innocent perſon to be Condemned, ſince it is not many years paſt that three perſons were executed and hanged in Chains, being condemned for the murther of one who appeared afterwards to be living: And this without any juſt cauſe of reflection upon the Juſtice of your Majeſtie, or of their Judges or Jurie.

That your Petitioner humbly beggs leave to hope, that when your Majeſtie ſhall have conſidered his ſaid Declaration, you will, out of the abundance of your natural inclinations to Mercie, either vouchſafe to give him his Pardon, ſo as to enable him to ſpend the remainder of his life in the Service of your Majeſtie and his Countrie; or at leaſt, give him leave to live, though it be abroad, and in perpetual baniſhment, he having fully obeyed your Majeſties Commands in diſcovering every thing within his knowledge which hath been required to be by him diſcovered; and the Caſe of your Petitioner being ſingular, as not having above any one Witneſs to any one particular matter of Fact given in Evidence againſt him, as the Judges can inform your Majeſtie.

Your Majeſties Petitioner therefore humbly caſts himſelf at your Majeſties feet, humbly imploring your Royal Mercie, and that you will be graciouſly pleaſed to give him his life, that he may ſpend it wholly in praying for your Majeſties long and happie Life, Reign, and Government.

And your Petitioner (as in Duty bound) ſhall dayly pray for your moſt Sacred Majeſty, &c.

R. Langborne.

I do ſolemnly and ſincerely, in the preſence of Almighty God, profeſs, teſtifie, and declare, as follows: That is to ſay,

1. THat I do believe and own my moſt Gracious Soveraign Lord the Kings Majeſty, King *CHARLES* the Second, to be my true and lawful Soveraign Prince and King, in the ſame ſence and latitude, to all intents and purpoſes, as in the Oath commonly called *The Oath of Allegiance*, his ſaid Majeſtie is expreſſed to be King of this Realm of *England*.

2. That I do in my Soul believe, That neither the Pope, nor any Prince, Potentate, or Forrain Authority, nor the people of *England*, nor any Authority out of this Kingdom, or within the ſame, hath or have any right to diſpoſſeſs His ſaid Majeſty of the Crown and Government of *England*, or to Depoſe him therefrom, for any cauſe, or pretended cauſe whatſoever; or to give Licenſe to me, or to any other of His Majeſties Subjects whatſoever, to bear Arms againſt His Majeſty, or to take away his Life, or to do him any bodily harm, or to diſturb the Government of this Kingdom, as it is now eſtabliſhed by Law, or to alter, or go about to alter the ſaid Government, or the Religion now eſtabliſhed in *England*, by any way of force.

3. That I neither am, nor ever was at any time guilty ſo much as in my moſt ſecret thoughts, of any Treaſon, or Miſpriſion of Treaſon whatſoever.

4. That I do believe, that if I did know, or ſhould know of any Treaſon or Treaſonable Deſign, that was, or is intended, or ſhould be intended againſt his ſaid Majeſty, or the Government of this His Majeſties Kingdom, or for the alteration, by Force, Advice, or otherwiſe, of the ſaid Government, or of the Religion now eſtabliſhed in this Kingdom; and ſhould conceal and not diſcover the ſame unto his ſaid Majeſty, or His Majeſties Councel or Miniſters, or ſome of them, that ſuch concealment would be in me a ſin unto death and Eternal Damnation.

And I do ſolemnly, in the preſence of God, profeſs, teſtifie, and declare, That as I hope for Salvation, or expect any benefit by the Blood and Paſſion of Jeſus Chriſt, I do make this Declaration, and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary ſence of the words wherein the ſame ſtand written, as they are commonly underſtood by *Engliſh* Proteſtants, and the Courts of Juſtice of *England*, without any evaſion or equivocation, or deluſion or mental reſervation whatſoever; and without any Diſpenſation or Pardon, or Abſolution already granted to me, for this or any other purpoſe, by the Pope, or any other Authority or perſon whatſoever; or without any hope of any ſuch Diſpenſation, and without thinking or believing that I am or can be acquitted before God or Man, or Abſolved of this Declaration, or any part thereof, although the Pope, or any other perſon or perſons, or power whatſoever, ſhould diſpence with or annul the ſame, or declare that it was or is null or void from the beginning.

R. Langborne.

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